



Visualize Data
Introduction to Part Creation

INTRODUCTION

Much of the strength of EnSight derives from its flexible and powerful part creation mechanism. Since virtually every task you perform in EnSight will involve some form of part manipulation, it is vital to understand these concepts.

In EnSight, a *part* is a named collection of elements (or cells) and associated nodes. The nodes may have zero or more *variables* (such as pressure or stress) currently defined at the node positions. All components of a part share the same set of attributes (such as color or line width).

Parts are either built during the loading process (based on your computational mesh and associated surfaces) or created during an EnSight session. Parts created during loading are called *model parts*. Model parts can also be created during an EnSight session by performing a copy on other model parts.

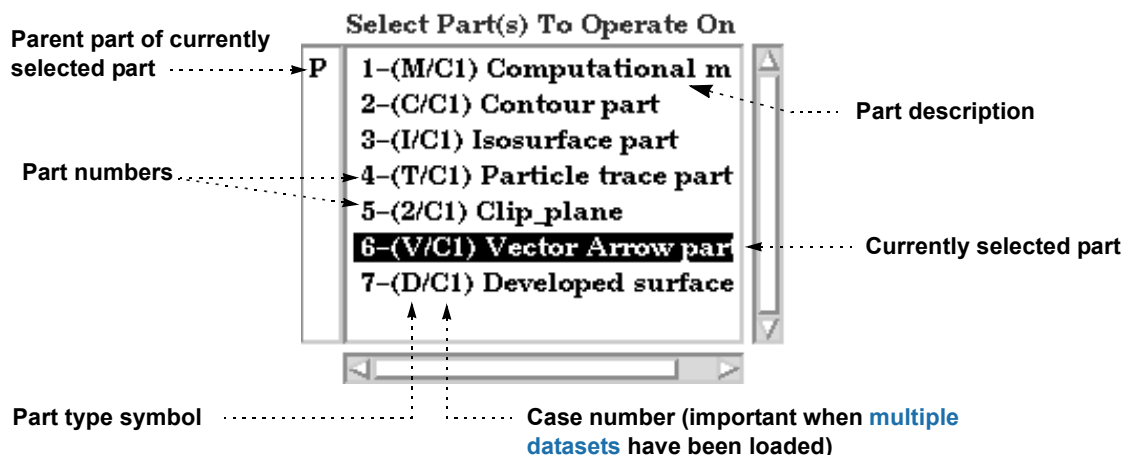
All other parts are created during an EnSight session and are called *created* or *derived* parts. Created parts are built using one or more other parts as the *parent parts*. The created parts are said to *depend on* the parent parts. If one or more of the parent parts change, all parts depending on those parent parts are automatically recalculated and redisplayed to reflect the change. As an example, consider the following case. A clipping plane is created through some 3D computational domain and a contour is created on the clipping plane. The contour's parent is the clipping plane, and the clipping plane's parent is the 3D domain. If the 3D domain is changed (e.g. the time step changes), the clipping plane will first be recalculated, followed by the contour. In this way, part coherence is maintained.

This article is divided into the following sections:

- [The Parts List](#)
- [Creating Parts](#)
- [Part Types](#)
- [Part Operations](#)
- [Part Attributes](#)
- [Where Parts Are Created and Maintained](#)
- [Hints and Tips](#)

The Parts List

Both model parts as well as all derived parts are displayed as items in the Parts List.





Items in the Parts List are selected using standard Motif methods:

| To ... | Do this ... | Details ... |
|---|--------------------------|---|
| Select an item | Select (or single-click) | Place the mouse pointer over the item and click the left mouse button. The item is highlighted to reflect the "selected" state. |
| Extend a contiguous selection | Select-drag | Place the mouse pointer over the first item. Click and hold the left mouse button as you drag over the remaining items to be selected. Only contiguous items may be selected in this fashion. |
| Extend a (possibly long) contiguous selection | Shift-click | Select the first item. Place the mouse pointer over the last item in the list to be selected. Press the shift key and click the left mouse button. This action will extend a selection to include all those items sequentially listed between the first selection and this one. |
| Extend a non-contiguous selection | Control-click | Place the mouse pointer over the item. Press the control key and click the left mouse button. This action will extend a selection by adding the new item, but not those in-between any previously selected items. |
| De-select an item | Control-click | Place the mouse pointer over the selected item. Press the control key and click the left mouse button. This action will de-select the item. |
| Open the Quick Interaction Area for a part | Double-click | Place the mouse pointer over the item and click the left mouse button twice in rapid succession. |

Creating Parts

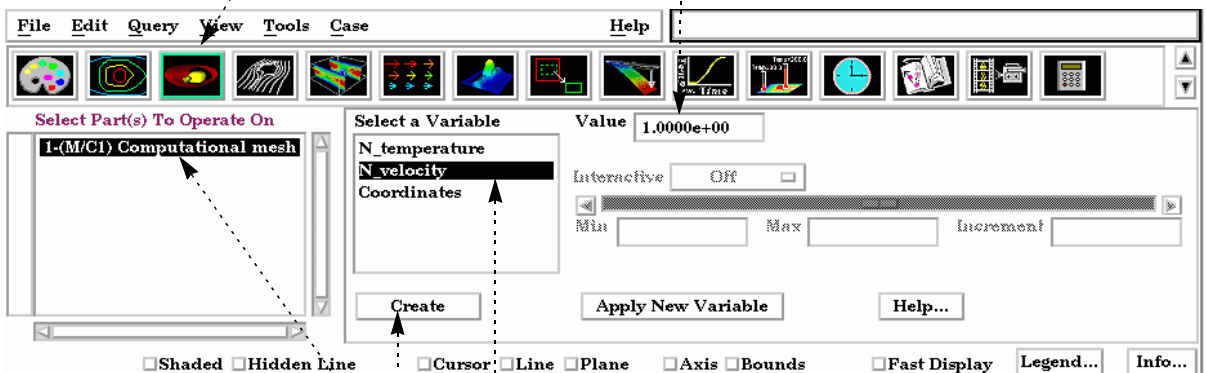
The mechanism for creating derived parts is largely the same regardless of part type:

1. In the Parts List, select the part(s) to use as parents.
2. Click the desired feature icon. This will open the corresponding creation section for the part type in the Quick Interaction area.
3. If necessary, select a variable to use from the Variables List (e.g. for contours or isosurfaces).
4. Set the desired creation attributes in the Quick Interaction area. **IMPORTANT:** if you change a text field, you *must* press return to have the change take effect!
5. Click the Create button in the Quick Interaction area.

The example below shows Isosurface part creation:

2. Click the isosurface creation icon.

4. Select an appropriate isovalue.



1. Select the parent part(s).

3. Select the variable to use.

5. Click "Create".

Part Types

The following table provides information on the available part types in EnSight:

| Part Type | Symbol | Feature Icon | Description |
|--------------------------|--------|--------------|--|
| <i>Clip</i> | 2 | | A surface or line resulting from a clip of other parts using the Line, Plane, Cylinder, Sphere, Cone, or Surface of Revolution tool. |
| <i>Contour</i> | C | | Lines of constant value on 2D elements. |
| <i>Developed Surface</i> | D | | A planar surface derived by unrolling a surface of revolution (e.g. unrolling a clip created with the Cylinder tool). |
| <i>Elevated Surface</i> | E | | A part created by scaling a 2D part (in the direction of the local surface normal) based on the value of a variable. |
| <i>Isosurface</i> | I | | A surface of constant value through 3D elements. |
| <i>Model</i> | M | | An original part (i.e. loaded from a disk file) or created through some operation (e.g. copy or extract) on a model part. |
| <i>Particle Trace</i> | T | | A part consisting of the paths taken by one or more massless particles as integrated through a vector (typically velocity) field. |
| <i>Profile</i> | P | | Plot of a variable along a line (the 2D counterpart to an elevated surface). |
| <i>Vector Arrow</i> | V | | A part consisting of a set of arrows showing direction and magnitude of a vector variable. |
| <i>Subset</i> | S | | A part created by node and/or element label range(s) from model part(s). |
| <i>Tensor Glyph</i> | G | | A part consisting of tensor glyphs showing direction and relative magnitude of the eigenvectors of a tensor variable. |
| <i>Vortex Core</i> | X | | A part consisting of line segments down the center of flow vortices. |

| Part Type | Symbol | Feature Icon | Description |
|---|--------|--------------|--|
| Shock Surface/ Region | K | | A part consisting of the surface or volume elements where shock is higher than a threshold. |
| Separation/ Attachment Line | L | | A part consisting of line segments on a surface where flow separation and attachment is occurring. |

Part Operations

EnSight provides several powerful part operators. These operations are accessible from the Edit > Part submenu.

Copy The copy operation creates a *dependent* copy of another part. The part is created on the client and is not known to the server. The new part has its own set of attributes (except for representation), but shares geometric and variable data with the original.

One of the best reasons to create a copy is to show multiple variables on one part at the same time in a side-by-side configuration. The copies can be moved independently since each new copy is automatically assigned a new **frame**.

See [How To Copy a Part](#) for more information.

Group This operation will collapse the selected parts into a new “umbrella” part. Grouping is most often used to combine a series of parts into a single part for ease in handling. The part is created on the client and is not known to the server. The operation is reversible through the Ungroup command.

See [How To Group Parts](#) for more information.

Delete The delete operation completely removes not only the currently selected parts, but also any parts derived from the selected parts.

See [How To Delete a Part](#) for more information.

Extract The extract operation is closely tied to part **representations**. Extract creates a new dependent part using only the geometry of the *current representation* of the part. For example, if the current representation of a part consisting of 3D elements is Border, the result of extraction will be a part consisting of all unshared 2D elements (the surface).

Extract is most often used to reduce the amount of information for a part (e.g. for faster display or for **geometry output**) or to create a surface shell part – perhaps for subsequent cutting – of a 3D computational domain.

See [How To Extract Part Representations](#) for more information.

Merge Merge creates one new dependent part from one or more selected parts. The original parts are unchanged. If only a single part is selected for the operation, merge will create a “true” copy of the part (as opposed to the “shallow” copy that the Copy operation creates).

Merging is most often used to combine a series of parts into a single part for ease in handling (such as attribute setting).

See [How To Merge Parts](#) for more information.

Note: The cut operation of previous versions of EnSight is now accessed by selecting the Domain for the clipping operation. See the various How To clipping sections for more information.



Part Attributes

All parts have numerous attributes that control behavior and display. Although many attributes can be controlled either through the Quick Interaction area or the Part Mode icons, complete access is provided by the various Feature Detail Editor dialogs. Part attributes and the Feature Detail editors are covered in detail in [How To Set Attributes](#).

Where Parts Are Created and Maintained

Part creation occurs on either the EnSight client or the server. Since the data that is available on the client and server are different, it is useful to understand where parts are created and where the data is stored. For example, you can only perform a query operation for parts that are stored on the server. The following table provides this information for each part type:

| Part Type | Where Created | Data on Server? | Data on Client? |
|----------------------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Clip | server | yes | depending on representation |
| Contour | client | no | yes |
| Developed Surface | server | yes | depending on representation |
| Discrete Particle | N/A | yes | depending on representation |
| Elevated Surface | server | yes | depending on representation |
| Isosurface | server | yes | depending on representation |
| Model | N/A | yes | depending on representation |
| Particle Trace | server | no | yes |
| Profile | client | no | yes |
| Vector Arrow | client | no | yes |
| Subset | server | yes | depending on representation |
| Tensor Glyph | client | no | yes |
| Vortex Core | server | yes | depending on representation |
| Shock Surface/Region | server | yes | depending on representation |
| Separation/Attachment Line | server | yes | depending on representation |

In the last column, “depending on representation” means the current [visual representation](#) for the part. For example, if the part’s visual representation is “Not Loaded”, then no data is currently present on the client.

Hints and Tips

With some datasets that contain many parts, it sometimes becomes difficult to maintain the connection between a part as displayed in the Graphics Window and the corresponding item in the Parts List. To see which part(s) are currently selected in the Parts List, select View > Show Selected Parts... This will open a new graphics window (titled Part(s) Selected Viewport) that will display only those parts that are currently selected in the Parts List.

You can rapidly cycle through items in the Parts List using the up/down arrow keys on your keyboard. Select any item in the list and then press the up arrow (to move to previous entries) or down arrow (to move to subsequent entries). This is particularly helpful when used in conjunction with the Part(s) Selected Viewport window (as described above) to quickly locate a part of interest.

You can select parts in the Parts List by picking the part in the Graphics Window. In Part Mode, select Pick Part from the Pick pull-down. In the Graphics Window, place the mouse pointer over any portion of the desired part and press the ‘p’ key. If you hold down the control key at the same time, the part is added to the list of currently selected parts.

Selected parts can be written to disk and loaded in a future session. Select File > Save > Geometric Entities ... You have the option of saving either in EnSight format or in VRML format. See [How To Save Geometric Entities](#) for more information.

SEE ALSO

User Manual: [Features](#), [Part Operations](#)